(d) In view of the provisions of Article 341 of the Constitution, Scheduled Castes are specified in relation to a particular State only and not on all India basis.

Production of Isabgol

3560. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Isabgol' also known as blea-seed has instant acceptability in foreign countries; and

(b) if so the steps Government have taken to boost its cultivation to meet foreign demand thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India is a monopoly exporter of 'Isabgol'. The production of 'Isabgol' in the country is more than the domestic demand. In view of the excess production and less domestic demand, production of 'Isabgol' is not being encouraged. Government of India implemented Market Intervention Scheme for 'Isabgol' during March 1990 to June 1990 and a total quantity of 2156 M.T. of Isabgol @ Rs. 1100/- per quintal was procured which helped in stabilising the prices of 'Isabgol' in Gujarat.

On-going Railway Projects in Himachal Pradesh

3561. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) The names of the on-going railway projects as at present in Himachal Pradesh together with the dates of their origin;

(b) how many of them relate to laying of new track doubling and extension of tracks;

(c) the handicaps in the execution of these projects;

(d) whether any targets have been fixed for their completion; and

(e) the steps being taken to extend railway track from Kalka to Parwanoo and by when it is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Nangal Dam-Talwara new line and taking over of siding from Talwara to Mukerian (84+29 Km) — 1981-82.

(b) New BG line—one
Doubling—NIL
Extension of track—NIL

(c) Delay in the State Government handing over land at reasonable cost as also constraint of resources.

(d) No Sir.

(e) On the advice of the State Government the work of extension of line from Kalka upto Parwanoo was dropped.

Organisation of consumer awareness Programmes in rural areas

3562. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are of the opinion that there is a need to organize consumer awareness programme in the rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so the steps being taken to boost the brogramme in the rural areas of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Various steps taken by the Government under Consumer Awareness Programme aim at generating awareness amongst urban as well as rural consumers. The formation of consumer organisations in the rural and urban areas is being encouraged. In order to strengthen them the Government has recently started a scheme of giving financial assistance and training to consumer organisations. It has published a number of booklets and brochures which are being distributed free of cost. Doordarshan is telecasting a fortnightly programme 'Sanrakshan Upbhokta Ka'. In addition the Government has also started a weekly programme entitled 'Apne Adhikar' on 28 commercial broadcasting stations of AIR. It has prepared a few video quickies and documentaries in the field of Consumer Protection.